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AB - Asthma is an inflammatory airways disease assocd. with intermittent respiratory symptoms, bronchial hyper-responsiveness (BHR) and reversible airflow obstruction and is phenotypically heterogeneous. Patterns of clustering and segregation analyses in asthma families have suggested a genetic component to asthma . Previous studies reported linkage of BHR and atopy to chromosomes 5q (refs 7-9), (refs 10-12), 11q (refs 13-15), 14q (ref. 16), and 12q (ref. 17) using candidate gene approaches. However, the relative roles of these genes i the pathogenesis of asthma or atopy are difficult to assess outside of the context of a genome-wide search. One genome-wide search atopic sib pairs has been reported, however, only 12% of their subjects had asthma . We conducted a genome-wide search in 140 families with .gtoreq.2 asthmatic sibs, from three racial groups and report evidence for linkage to six novel regions: 5p15 (P=0.0008) and 17p11.1-q11.2 (P=0.015) in African Americans; 11p15 (P=0.0089) and 19q13 (P=0.0013) in Caucasians; 12q23.1 (P=0.0005) and 21q21 (P=0.0040) in Hispanics. Evidence for linkage was also detected in five regions previously reported to be linked to asthma -assocd. phenotypes: 5q23-31 (P=0.0187), 6p21.3-23 (P=0.0129), 12q14-24.2 (P=0.0042), 13q21.3-qter (P=0.0014), and 14q11.2-13 (P=0.0062) in Caucasians and 12q14-24.2 (P=0.0260) in Hispanics.